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REVIEWS OF RECENT LITERATURE.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

Man and his Ancestor.—In an admirable little volume of 238 pages Mr. Charles Morris has presented the leading facts that go to show that man has been the outcome of a development from the lower animals. This study in evolution is written in terse and untechnical language. It is addressed to “those who are evolutionists in principle to learn on what grounds their acceptance of this phase of evolution stands, and to aid those who are at sea on the whole subject of man’s origin to reach some fixed conclusion.” The clear and logical interpretation of the facts — themselves established for the most part beyond controversy — certainly justifies the author’s hope “that it may carry some doubters to solid land and teach some believers the fundamental elements of their faith.” In a word, it is a well-written “popular treatise ” that deserves to be widely read.

Two views of the origin of man exist : either he came into existence through direct creation, or by development from the lower animals. The former mode is not susceptible of proof, the latter is supported by our author with facts drawn from both biology and anthropology. Some of the principal vestiges of the ancestry of man which he carries in his own body are described. Brief mention is made of the principal discoveries of human remains and articles manufactured by man that have come down to us from prehistoric times. It is to be especially observed that all archæological evidence is cumulative, indicative of constant improvement. The four most marked distinctions between man and the lower animals are considered at some length. In the chapter upon “the conflict with nature ” are set forth the prevailing beliefs regarding the time and place of man’s origin, the influence environment has had upon the race, and the traces of ascent discernible in racial differences.

Notes.—In Vol. X, Nos. 4 and 5, of *L’Anthropologie* appears a valuable article upon polymasty and polythely in man. Dr. P. J. Stoyanov presents a number of new cases and reviews the results obtained by other investigators.

Mr. W. C. Mills, curator of the museum of the Ohio State Archæological and Historical Society, has prepared a report of the field work of the society for the year ending May 31, 1898, that has been published in Vol. VIII of the *Annual Publications of the Society*. The work consisted in the exploration of mounds and the addition of new data to the state archæological map. The explorations seem to have revealed little that is new, though the discovery of post molds in a mound in Knox County is worthy of note. These molds were in the form of a square twenty-seven feet on each side. In the center of the enclosure was a fire pit of yellow clay six feet in diameter. In another mound five headless skeletons were found promiscuously heaped together. This recalls the discovery made at the Turner Mounds, a number of years ago, of sixteen skulls that had been buried together.

In the *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History*, Vol. XIII, pp. 69-86, appears an article by Mr. A. L. Krøeber upon the "Symbolism of the Arapaho Indians." It is very concisely written, and illustrated with 138 figures representing the symbols most commonly employed. These range from a straight line (Fig. 24) to a silhouette of the human figure (Fig. 124). Mr. Krøeber concludes that the symbolic tendency prevails over the decorative in Arapaho art.

In the *American Anthropologist* (N. S.), Vol. II, No. 2, is published a paper by Dr. J. R. Swanton upon the "Morphology of the Chinook Verb" that should be of interest and value to students of the science of linguistics. It is an exhaustive study of the verb, prefaced by a general account of the other parts of speech in the Chinook language. This thesis was accepted at Harvard University as fulfilling the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. F. R.

ZOÖLOGY.

A Zoögeographic Scheme for the Mid-Pacific.¹—Some time ago (*American Naturalist*, No. 396, p. 975, December, 1899) we called attention to C. Hedley's views on the former existence of an antarctic continent; now, a recent paper has come into our hands on a subject that is intimately connected with the question of the origin of the faunas of the Central Pacific Islands, Australia, and New Zealand.

¹ Hedley, Chas. *Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales* (1899), Pt. iii, July 26.